



Chairman's Guide for Propositions – November 7, 2023

PROPOSITION 1 HJR 126

This amendment will add a new rule to the state constitution giving people the right to do farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management on their own land or land they lease.

Verdict:

Vote "NO" AGAINST. This is a wolf in sheep's clothing. It appears to affirm the "rights" of individuals, but it actually affirms the right of bureaucracy to establish laws and regulations that may abridge your rights of ownership and use.

PROPOSITION 2 - SJR 64

This amendment will give the state legislature the power to create a law that would allow certain child-care facilities to be exempted from property taxes.

Verdict:

Vote "NO" AGAINST. The taxing obligation should not be shifted from a profit oriented commercial enterprise and increase the tax burden already in place on the citizens of Texas. Preferential treatment regarding Property Tax should not be extended to a special class of businesses on a wholesale basis.

PROPOSITION 5 HJR 3

This amendment would make changes to the Texas University Fund (TUF). TUF provides money to certain higher education institutions to help them become well-known research universities at a national level.

Verdict:

Vote "NO" AGAINST. Universities need to be brought back to the original purpose of existence. The University is a facility of learning not research and development. This is simple another form of corporate subsidy by using tax dollars to fund their research projects. The research and development should be left to our capitalist free enterprise marketplace.

PROPOSITION 6- SJR 75

This amendment creates the Texas Water Fund and managed by the Texas Water Development Board in order to support water-related projects.

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Verdict:

Vote "NO" AGAINST. If this fund was restricted to support local infrastructure projects we might want to vote yes, but it's not. Here again the taxpayers are being asked to subsidize water projects that will benefit commercial enterprises. Let our current free enterprise system determine which water projects are profitable for commercial enterprises and not have them subsidized by tax dollars.

PROPOSITION 7 HJR 132

This amendment is about creating a fund to support building and improving power plants for electricity in Texas, managed by the Public Utility Commission, with the goal of fairly distributing the funds to different areas of the state.

Verdict:

Vote "NO" AGAINST. Tax dollars being allocated as subsidies for profitable commercial enterprises. Giving tax dollars to a bureaucratic organization. This is just another slush fund for the PUC to hand out to preferred utilities. The utilities are private enterprises that pay out dividends, sell stock, and make a profit. If the project requires additional funding have the free market determine the viability economically. This use of tax dollars should not be put in the hands of politicians to dole out from a bureaucracy.

PROPOSITION 8 HJR 125

This amendment creates the Broadband Infrastructure Fund in the Texas Constitution. to improve access to and use of broadband internet and telecommunications services.

Verdict:

Vote "NO" AGAINST. This is another subsidy to a commercial enterprise. Let the free market determine the winners and losers, not bureaucrats. The enterprises that provide broadband do not need to be subsidized by tax payor dollars. There are alternate means to connect to the internet provided by satellite services and other technology.

PROPOSITION 9 HJR 2

This amendment permits the Texas legislature to grant cost-of-living adjustments to specific retirees in the TRS and allocates funds from the general fund to support these adjustments, without being restricted by the state's spending limit.

Verdict:

Vote "YES FOR" only because, hopefully, it is a onetime event. There is always one special group or another deserving of special treatment. If we are to provide one special state employee group with special COL adjustments, then we should provide it to all State Employees. Will the same COL be provided to a special individual living in Houston get the same COL as the special employee that is living in Comfort or Welfare, Texas. Just another social welfare being placed around the necks of the Texas citizen. A reason to Vote "NO" in that this amendment also circumvents the Constitutional Amendment recently passed putting a cap on State spending to encourage good sound financial behavior in our Legislators. Here they are attempting to circumvent this requirement. In a time when over the past 30 years 401Ks have been used as retirement savings and encourages employees to save for their retirement. Are we as tax payors supposed to subsidize the failure of employees that don't plan for retirement. Why should we do it for a select group. Even though they are well respected. Should we now subsidize ALL union pension plans? Do we now subsidize ALL union pension plans? for retirement. Why should we do it for a select group. Even though they are well respected. Should we now subsidize ALL union pension plans?



PROPOSITION 10 - SJR 87

This amendment allows the Texas Legislature to give a tax break to manufactures of medical or biomedical products.

Verdict:

Vote "NO" AGAINST. Tax dollars being allocated as subsidies for profitable commercial enterprises. Giving tax dollars to a bureaucratic organization. This is just another slush fund for the PUC to hand out to preferred utilities. The utilities are private enterprises that pay out dividends, sell stock, and make a profit. If the project requires additional funding have the free market determine the viability economically. This use of tax dollars should not be put in the hands of politicians to dole out from a bureaucracy.

PROPOSITION 14 SJR 74

This amendment creates a special fund called the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, which will be used to improve and create state parks in Texas.

Verdict:

Vote "NO" AGAINST. If we are having a spending cap for the State, we should not start circumventing the purpose of the spending cap by spending State collected tax dollars outside the cap by special authorization. If we do this why even have a limit on how much the State can spend annually based on a fraudulent budget.

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